

## **TROPICAL DEPRESSION (21W)**

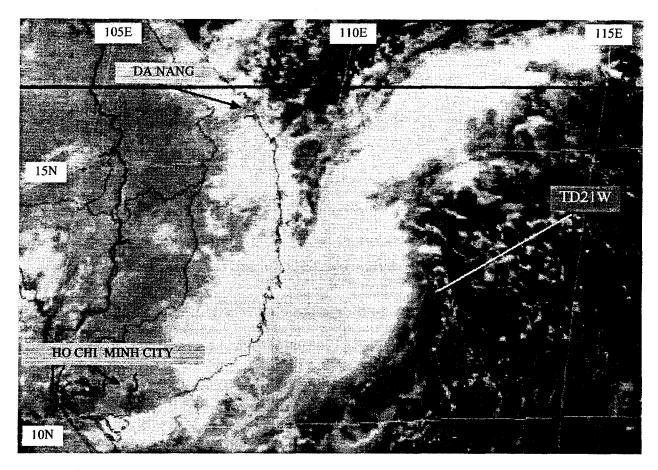


Figure 3-21-1 Tropical Depression 21W reaches its peak intensity of 25 kt (13 m/sec) as it approaches the coast of Vietnam (280231Z September visible GMS imagery).

During the last week of September, amounts of deep convection increased throughout Micronesia. This convection organized into an east-west chain of tropical disturbances. The disturbance that became Tropical Depression 21W was first mentioned on the 211800Z September Significant Tropical Weather Advisory when synoptic data indicated that a weak surface circulation accompanied an area of deep convection south of Chuuk. For three days, this tropical disturbance drifted westward toward the Philippines. On 25 September, satellite imagery indicated that the deep convection and low-level cloud lines accompanying this disturbance had become better organized, prompting the JTWC to issue a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) at 250500Z. As the disturbance crossed the Philippines, it failed to intensify, and a second TCFA was issued at 260400Z in anticipation of intensification as it moved into the South China Sea. When the system failed to become better organized once in the South China Sea, the second TCFA was canceled at 262130Z. On 28 September, as this tropical disturbance neared the coast of Vietnam, the deep convection consolidated near the low-level circulation center, and its low-level cloud lines became better defined (Figure 3-21-1). The JTWC issued the first warning on Tropical Depression 21W, valid at 280600Z. The final warning was issued, valid at 290000Z, after the system made landfall on the coast of Vietnam and began to dissipate.